

WATERTOWN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF LIBRARY RESOURCES

The Board of Library Trustees of the Watertown Free Public Library has delegated the responsibility for selection and evaluation of library materials to the Library Director, and has established reconsideration procedures to address concerns about those materials. Completion of this form is the first step in those procedures. If you wish to request reconsideration of library resources, please return the completed form to:

Library Director
Watertown Free Public Library
123 Main Street
Watertown, MA 02472

Name: Leeta White Date: 11-8-10

Address: 135 Walnut St. #2

City: Somerville State: MA Zip: 02145 Phone: 617-515-1889

Do you represent self: ☒ Organization: _____

1. Resource on which you are commenting: ☒ Book (children's) ☐ Textbook
☐ Video ☐ Audio Recording ☐ Newspaper ☐ Magazine
☐ Display ☐ Library Program ☐ Other
_____ Electronic information/network (please specify)

Title: I WANT A HUG

Author/Producer: JOHN A. ROWE

2. What brought this resource to your attention? ILLUSTRATIONS

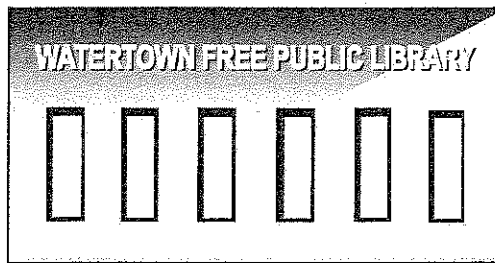
3. Have you examined the entire resource? ☒ Yes ☐ No

4. What concerns you about the resource? (use other side or additional pages if necessary):

THE ~~BOOK~~ ARTWORK OF MONKEYS ON THE INSIDE JACKET (in a tree hugging)
AND MORE NOTE ABLY, ON ~~THE~~ THE 3RD PAGE FROM THE END LOOK VERY
MUCH ~~OF~~ LIKE PORTRAYALS OF BLACKS DURING THE MINSTREL ERA. AS AN
AFRICAN AMERICAN EDUCATOR, I FIND IT OFFENSIVE

5. Are there resource (s) you suggest to provide additional information and/or other viewpoints on this topic?

GOOGLE "MINSTREL CARTOONS"



Watertown's window to the world of information

123 Main Street. Watertown Massachusetts 02472-4478. Telephone (617) 972-6434 Fax (617) 926-4375
www.watertownlib.org

November 23, 2010

Leeta White
135 Walnut Street #2
Watertown, MA 02472

Dear Ms. White,

A committee of librarians has investigated your request for reconsideration regarding the book I Want A Hug by John A. Rowe and made a recommendation to me to keep this book in the collection of the Children's Department.

Contextually speaking, the story is about a hedgehog who wants a hug and a crocodile who wants a kiss and luckily they find each other. The monkey illustrations that you mention on your reconsideration form could remind people of minstrel cartoons, but as far as we can tell there is no intent by the author to be racist. The monkeys in question do not have a speaking part in the book, and they seem to play no role in the story except as observers. We also researched whether these illustrations had been criticized in the media and could find no evidence of that.

For these reasons, it is my decision to retain this book in the children's collection.

Should you have any questions regarding library policies or procedures or wish to have the Board of Library Trustees review my decision, please contact me at 617-972-6434.

Sincerely,

Leone E. Cole
Library Director